**Revision of pay scales of Assistants**

†*317. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal for revision of pay scales of Assistants and Section Officers of the Central Secretariat;

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard;

(c) whether his Ministry has received any direction from PM Office in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken by his Ministry;

(e) whether his Ministry has repeatedly expressed its dissent on the said proposal; and

(f) if so, the basis of the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Finance had received representations from the Central Secretariat Service Forum for upgradation of pay scales of Assistants and Section Officers of Central Secretariat Service. The matter was examined and after due consideration of all aspects, including the views of Prime Minister's Office, it was agreed to upgrade the pay scale of Assistants in CSS. Further, it was also decided that with the constitution of the VIth Central Pay Commission, all other proposals for upgradation that might follow may be referred to the Commission. The Department of Personnel and Training has recently again referred the matter of upgradation of pay scales of SOs of CSS to the Department of Expenditure.

**Organising of function in memory of Revolt of 1857**

†*318. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI:
SHRI SITARAM YECHURY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to organise a function in the memory of first war of Independence of 1857;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to organise an inaugural function on 11th May, 2007 at Red Fort in commemoration of First War of Independence, 1857.

**Rain water harvesting in Uttarakhand**

†*319. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is providing monetary assistance to the State of Uttarakhand for promoting schemes related to rain water harvesting/ collection;

(b) if so, the details of the monetary assistance provided to the State during the last two years to increase water level and amount being provided to the State in the current financial year under this head;

(c) whether he is aware that the State has vast potential with regard to rain water harvesting/collection; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps being taken to exploit the said potential?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources has provided Grant-in-aid to Non-Government Organisation (NGOs)/Community Based Organisations (CBOs) for construction of roof top rain water harvesting structures and two toilets each in 41 Government Girls Schools in Uttarakhand during 2005-2007. Details of total number of structures to be constructed and monetary assistance provided to CBOs/NGOs are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) The State of Uttarakhand has significant potential of rain water harvesting for storage and recharge of ground water. As per reports, about 85% area of the State is covered by mountainous topography and average annual rainfall is 1523 mm. The Central Ground Water Board

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.